

## REMARKS

Claims 1-68 are pending. Claims 4, 16, 26, 35, 45, 48, 51, 53, 57 and 64 are amended.

The Office Action is a restriction requirement among Groups I-XIV. Applicants hereby elect Group VI (claims 26-34), drawn to a process of preparing formula (VI). This election is made with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of Groups I, III, VI and XI are sufficiently related such that there is a technical relationship among these inventions. Thus, the search and examination of Group VI would necessarily include the search and examination of this Groups I, III and XI. Accordingly, it is believed that the search and examination of the above groups can be made without serious burden.

For example, Groups I and III are as follows:

Group I (Claims 1-3: a process for preparing formula (3) from formula (1) (via formula (2))

Group III (Claims 7-15: a process for preparing formula (6) from formula (3))

As indicated in Group VI, formula (3) is an intermediate for preparing formula (6). Therefore, the Applicants believe that Groups I, III and VI are sufficiently related such that there is a technical relationship among these inventions.

The present case relates to the synthetic route through formula (3) in the manufacture of the optically active amino acid derivative represented by formula (6), starting from a haloalanine. In that route, both of the step of synthesizing formula (3) from formula (1) and that of synthesizing formula (6) from formula (3) are very important.

Furthermore, since Group XI consists of compounds of formula (3), i.e., the N-protected-aziridine-2-carboxylic acid, it is also directed to a common category as the elected Group VI.

The optically active aziridine-2-carboxylic acid derivative represented by formula (2) is an important compound as the precursor for formula (3), as is evident from the discussion above. The information disclosed by the present application includes that, since the precedent techniques for the manufacture of optically active aziridine-2-carboxylic acid derivative (2) have problems with regard to reaction yield as well as the quality of the reaction product, the Applicants have confirmed that the process of the present application can markedly improve those problems, and that accordingly the practical utility of the synthetic route of from formula (1) to formula (6) is enhanced.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.



In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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